

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending. By this amendment claims 5, 19, 21, and 22 are amended and claims 8 and 20 are canceled. Reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

On page 2 the Office Action rejects claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 21 is amended. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is respectfully requested.

On page 2 the office action rejects claims 5-7 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent 5,996,048 to Cherabuddi et al. (hereafter Cherabuddi). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

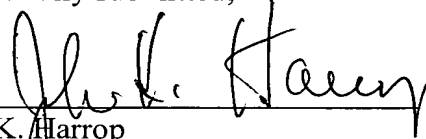
Claim 5 is amended to incorporate all the features of allowable claim 8. Accordingly, claim 5 is patentable. Claims 6 and 7 depend from patentable claim 5, and for this reason and the additional features they recite, claims 6 and 7 are also patentable.

Claim 19 is amended to incorporate all the features of allowable claim 20, and claim 20 is canceled. Accordingly, claim 19 is patentable. Claims 21 and 22 depend from patentable claim 19, and for this reason and the additional features they recite, claims 21 and 22 are also patentable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5 - 7 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is respectfully requested.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Prompt examination and allowance are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desired in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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